

outside service, however, was left largely to political patronage commissions. "To the victor belongs the spoils" has been the sum and substance of the political ethics of such commissions. Political pull has been the only qualification necessary to secure appointment under their management. The result has been to overload the outside civil service with incompetents selected from the ranks of party heeler, many of whom have used the influence of their positions for a furtherance of party ends.

The patronage basis of securing supplies for the government and of letting contracts for government works has been even a more prolific cause of political corruption. It has been the chief source of the vast campaign funds maintained for the purpose of debauching the electorate; those on the list contributing to the government campaign funds and those off it to the funds of the opposition on the understanding that with a change of government they would benefit by a position on the new patronage list. The patronage system has therefore bound both parties to the interests that flourish by corrupting governments. Hence the delay in abolishing the patronage evil. The abolition of the system was, however, necessary to the establishment of a union government containing leaders of both parties. The clearing away of the patronage incubus has been consistently demanded by the organized farmers and they are looking to the union government for the rigid enforcement of this important clause in its program.

VALUE OF REGISTERED SEED

Year by year it is becoming more evident that good seed is a most vitally important factor in the production of large and good crops. During the present season several important demonstrations of this fact have been made. The sweepstakes prize for wheat won by Samuel Larcombe at the Dry Farming Congress at Peoria, was captured by wheat selected from registered stock which Mr. Larcombe has been growing. The sweepstakes prize won last year by Seager Wheeler at El Paso was due to the careful selection of his seed for a number of years. The wonderful record of 34 bushels per acre on a field of 1,000 acres on the Noble farms at Nobleford, Alberta, was secured by sowing first generation registered Marquis wheat. Among the other winners of important prizes at the Dry Farming Congress were J. S. Fields, Regina and W. S. Simpson, Pambrun, Saskatchewan, both of whom are growers of registered seed. The sweepstakes prize for the World's best potatoes won by Seager Wheeler at Peoria, was another demonstration of the value of seed selection. Mr. Wheeler follows the rules and regulations of the Canadian Seed Growers'

Association in growing his potatoes, and the results that are produced by these methods are demonstrated by the fact that he carried off the prize against all comers.

The Canadian Seed Growers' Association is one of the most meritorious institutions in the country. It is designed to teach farmers how to grow the very best seed, how to select it in order to ensure its purity, and to clean it so that it is absolutely free from any noxious weed seeds. There are only a comparatively small number of members in Western Canada, but they are doing a splendid work in supplying this seed to their fellow farmers. In very few cases are they receiving a legitimate reward for the labor and care necessary in producing this high quality seed. There is a great need for a large increase in the membership of this association. At least 2,000 farmers should be growing and producing registered seed for sale every year. The market for this seed is far in excess of the supply and the demand is bound to grow year by year. Not every farmer has the time nor the patience to perform the labor necessary to produce registered seed. But every farmer should be a purchaser of registered seed every year. It requires practically no extra labor to have a plot of from one-half acre to several acres sown to registered seed. If each farmer made a habit of having a small plot on his farm each year sown to registered seed, he would, in a remarkably short time improve the quality of all the seed sown on his farm and thereby increase the yield and very materially raise the grade of his grain for market. Any farmer

who makes it a point to have good seed every year will take more care in his cultivation than otherwise. Good seed and good cultivation will raise the average yield of grain per acre in this country from five to ten bushels and will in proportion increase the profits which the farmers will get from grain growing.

Hon. James A. Calder's chief duty as Minister of Immigration and Colonization will be to ensure a large influx of immigration after the war. No doubt there will be some immigration from England and France, but undoubtedly the great aim of the governments of both those countries will be to retain as many as possible at home for the reconstruction period which will require so much labor after the war. The greatest hope that Canada has for immigration is from the United States. If a proper system is now inaugurated, it is quite possible that hundreds of thousands of the most highly desirable citizens can be induced to come from the United States and make their homes in Canada. There is room for millions of them on the prairie.

It is pleasing to learn that the Food Controller has decided to take over the regulation and control of all cold storage plants in the Dominion of Canada. These institutions should be under the strict regulation of government authorities, both in war time and in peace time. There is no room in a well governed country for any individuals or corporations who may be inclined to make huge profits on the food supplies of the people.

When the new government gets really into action, we imagine that Sir Joseph Flavelle will be forced to restore to the public treasury some of the enormous profits which he has gouged out of the Canadian people and the Allied governments, on the bacon and other food supplies which he has been selling. Sir Joseph's patriotism is of a brand too expensive for Canadian people to indulge in.

With the Hon. A. L. Sifton as Minister of Customs, those in the West who have watched his record will not find it difficult to believe that there will be no increases in the customs tariff while he is minister. Neither do we believe that those gentlemen who live mostly on the tariff will find it as easy to get concessions from the customs department as they have been able to do in the past.

Hon. T. A. Crerar is the most forceful and aggressive Minister of Agriculture who has been on the job at Ottawa for many a year. Some much needed reforms in that department may be looked for with confidence. The department of agriculture has only recently been awakening to the agricultural needs of Canada.



UNION RISING, LIKE PHOENIX, FROM THE ASHES OF PARTY POLITICS